

Curriculum Standards

Performance Indicators

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Sample Activities

For Children of Ages Nine and Ten

or

those in Grade Four

Prayers to be introduced...



Morning Offering

Nicene Creed



Prayers to "learn by heart."

Sign of the Cross Our Father Glory Be

Apostles Creed Grace Before and After Meals

Hail Mary Morning and Evening Prayer

Liturgical Responses Act of Contrition

Prayers to Practice

Regina Coeli

Angelus

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Rosary

spontaneous prayer

Word Bank
Absolution
Bear false witness
Commandment
Contrition
Creation
Grace
Evil
Holiness
Justice
New Testament
Saint
Temptation
Virtue
Abuse
Beatitudes
Communion of Saints
Envy
Holy Days
Corporal Work of Mercy
Great Commandment
Lent/Holy Week
Old Testament
Advent
Benediction
Conscience
Greed
Neighbor
Holy Spirit
Sabbath
Violence
Vocabulary for Beatitudes
Spiritual Works of Mercy
Ten Commandments
Covet
Samaritan

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom.

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship.

Parents should be encouraged to help children learn the required prayers at home.

Foster participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community.

Creed



Standard #1 Faith

Present an understanding of the human need for God based on revelation and faith.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recall that grace from God helps us live good lives.
- ~Understand that making choices demonstrates God's gift of free will to us.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Ask the children to use God's gift of free will and discuss with their families how they can make good choices while watching TV.



Find examples in the parish family who use God's gift of Grace to practice their faith. Who are the people who minister to the people in the parish family?



Create a collage/poster together that includes many examples of people who say "yes" to grace and are showing God's love by "doing good."



Ask the children for examples of sin and evil in the world. How do people today search for God? Why do we need God? Why does God give us the gift to choose?



Talk together about the meaning of grace. How does grace help us?

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #2 Scripture

Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize that the Bible teaches about God's goodness within us and our world.
- ~Demonstrate making life choices consistent with Biblical teachings.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Read selected Bible passages which show God's goodness. Ask the children to give examples of God's goodness in their lives.



Give each child a Bible and play a speed competition game of finding specific passages that speak of life choices.



Assist children to locate references in the New Testament to the coming of the Messiah. Passages should be listed by chapter/verse. What do these passages teach us about God's goodness?



Invite the families to read sections of each of the four Gospels with their children and discuss what is said about the goodness of God.



Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #3 Doctrine & Dogma

Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

Performance Indicators

- ~Show God's mercy and forgiveness as offered through Jesus.
- ~Recall that the Holy Spirit guides us to choose good over evil.
- ~Explain how all members of the Church are members of the Body of Christ.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Plan and participate as a group in a parish communal Penance/Reconciliation service to illustrate God's mercy and forgiveness as offered by Jesus.



Explain the Communion of Saints. Encourage the children to choose a favorite saint, with the help of their parents, and write a story about that person's love for God.



Read Gospel passages that show how Jesus treated sinners, illustrating his mercy and compassion.



Invite an RCIA catechumen or a candidate for full initiation to speak with the children. Ask the guest to explain why he or she is choosing to



Help the children proclaim to others that Jesus forgives us. Start with "Hear Ye, Hear Ye!"

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #4 Trinity

Recognize the Trinity as God.

Performance Indicators

~Recognize that God is always with us.

~Identify from Gospel stories how Jesus teaches us how to live.

~Distinguish how the Holy Spirit helps us live as Jesus did.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Encourage the children to spend some time talking with their parents or grandparents. Ask them to share Gospel stories that teach us how to live.



Together, research and identify Scriptural passages that relate to Pentecost. Dramatize the Pentecost story. How can the Holy Spirit help us as the Holy Spirit helped the apostles?



What can children say about who Jesus is? Draw a picture of Jesus teaching us how to live.



Help the children identify concepts from the Nicene Creed which address each person of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Provide materials for the children to create images of the Trinity.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #5 Church

Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize the Church as a light to the world.
- ~Identify the parish, diocesan and universal Church as community.
- ~Recall the Last Supper in the Eucharistic celebration of Holy Thursday.
- ~Learn from others and teach others the way to the reign of God, as members of the Church.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Set up the environment in which the children can recreate the Last Supper. Discuss why Jesus washed the feet of the apostles.



Help the children learn the Nicene Creed. Explain why the Nicene Creed is important for Catholics as a statement of the Church's faith.



Help the children read Scripture passages that speak of the reign of God. Show in word or picture the meaning of what was read.



Have the children discuss how the Church is a light in the world. Have them draw a picture of something that happens during the year that shows the Church helps others and is a light in the world.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #6 Community

Demonstrate an appreciation for faith community as the primary way we come to know God.

Performance Indicators

- ~Examine the followers of Jesus who make up the Church (apostles, saints, us).
- ~Indicate that the Church, the Body of Christ, celebrates the Eucharist.
- ~Describe examples of how the Church cares for those in need and works to build a better world.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Request that the children bring in family pictures or videos of a specific sacramental celebration to share with others. Explain the importance of this sacrament for the Church.



Ask a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society or a soup kitchen volunteer to discuss their work in relation to Jesus and the Church.



Invite families to celebrate liturgy together, participate fully, and discuss why the Mass is so important in the Church.



Bring in newspapers and magazines that contain current news articles about the Catholic Church caring for others. Have children share why this information is news worthy.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #7 Creation

Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of creation.

Performance Indicators

- ~Identify the abundance and goodness of God's creation.
- ~Explore the responsibility of Catholic Christians to be generous with others.
- ~Engage in problem solving to promote responsible stewardship of God's creation.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Have the children write a prayer that shows gratitude for all of God's gifts to them.



Discuss ways fourth graders can be good stewards of the environment. Show how this affects God's creation.



Encourage the children to discuss and write ways in which they have shown responsibility for God's creation.



Participate as a group in a community recycling effort. Have the children discuss with parents how they are helping to improve their world.

Other activities I found useful...

Sacraments



Standard #8 Sacraments

Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

Performance Indicators

- ~Participate in the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.
- ~Celebrate Eucharist with the parish community.
- ~Recognize the importance of the sacraments in daily living.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Encourage the children and their families to participate in a parish celebration of the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.



Ask the children to interview adults about their experience of the Sacrament of Matrimony and why it is a sacrament.



Invite a priest to speak about his ordination and how he serves God and the Church today.



Invite someone recently confirmed to share their experience of what Confirmation was like and why he/she was confirmed.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #9 Discipleship

Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

Performance Indicators

- ~Illustrate that through Baptism, Jesus calls us to a life of service.
- ~Propose good Christian lifestyles by using examples of Jesus, Mary and the Saints.
- ~Recognize that the role of family and community is to support our Christian way of life.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Plan together and carry out a service project to help those in need in the parish community, illustrating God's call to a life of service.



Ask the children to discuss with their families the various ways in which they help one another live a Christian way of life. Share the information with the group.



Invite a religious sister or brother to explain how she or he lives as vowed religious and serves God and his people.



Discuss the various ministries children see in their parishes. Encourage children to choose a ministry they admire and draw or write about it as a Call to service by Jesus.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #10 Human Dignity

Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

Performance Indicator

~Recognize that differences in race and nationalities are good for the human family and the Church.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Invite parents to help their children research their genealogy to identify the ethnic community (ies) to which they belong.



Allow the children time to research and create symbols for Easter from different cultures within the Church.



Listen to liturgical music from different cultures. Are any familiar to today's Catholic?

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #11 Human Interaction / Sexuality

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Performance Indicators

- ~Examine the greatest commandment to love God with our whole heart and others as ourselves.
- ~Recognize that authority is necessary for human community.
- ~Demonstrate responsible expressions of sexuality.
- ~Relate that God cares deeply about how we treat others.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Develop a brief survey of questions with the children about how people interact with one another. Ask the children to discuss the questions with their parents.



Choose a TV show and ask the children to watch it with their parents. Ask them to report on the characters who act justly and those who treat others without dignity.



Ask the children to act out a story that shows obedience to the greatest commandment.



Discuss the beginning of human life and reflect on how human life and sexuality are precious and true gifts from God.



Help children put on a skit which demonstrates good Christian ways of relating with people.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #12 Social Justice

Know, Critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

Performance Indicators

- ~Demonstrate that God wants us to fight against envy and greed.
- ~Illustrate how the beatitudes show us to trust God, forgive and have mercy for others.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Have children gather in small groups and find a scripture passage that demonstrates the evils of envy and greed.



Talk about the Beatitudes. Discuss what Catholics do to reach out to people nearby and across the world.



Have children draw pictures that show people living the Beatitudes.



Show how Jesus helped others by touching and healing them, both physically and spiritually. Discuss how we can imitate him.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #13 Community Service

Engage in service to the community (e.g. family, parish, local, National and global) in response to the Gospel call.

Performance Indicators

- ~Demonstrate our love for God by helping those in need.
- ~Illustrate how caring for others means considering their needs.
- ~Recall that the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy show our love for Jesus.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Assist the children in planning and carrying out service projects to help their families and neighbors.



Show in writing or pictures how Jesus provided community service.



Provide materials for the children to research world figures and organizations that serve the poor in third world countries. Write a story about how they care for others by meeting human needs.



Offer scripture references and discuss how we can perform the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #14 Moral Conscience

Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

Performance Indicators

- ~Demonstrate the virtues of faith, hope and love.
- ~Dramatize our God-given gifts of freedom and conscience.
- ~Indicate that the Holy Spirit and the Church help us to choose what is right.
- ~Illustrate how the Ten Commandments teach us how to love God and others.
- ~Recognize that sin is a choice to turn away from God that harms our relationship with God, others and ourselves.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Have the children give examples or act out how they use their gifts of freedom and conscience in making decisions.



Brainstorm with the children about how they can show faith, hope and love in their daily actions.



Encourage the children to write a prayer, telling God how they will treat others with respect.



Discuss the meaning of the ten commandments and ask the children to identify which commandments relate to their neighbors.



Have the children act out how sin hurts them and other people.



Ask the children to interview their parents and grandparents about their love of God and others. Have children share what they learned and connect the ideas to the Ten Commandments.

Other activities I found useful...

Prayer



Standard #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer
Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer.

Performance Indicators

- ~Indicate how Christians forgive those who hurt them or bear wrongs patiently and pray for everyone.
- ~Introduce different forms of prayer.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Ask the children to read psalms as prayers that ask for God's forgiveness, and choose one they would like to pray together.



Invite the children to participate in spontaneous prayer, meditation and intercessory prayer.



Review with the children the prayers (Our Father, Nicene Creed, and responses of the Mass.



Invite a priest, deacon, sister or liturgist to speak about the Mass, explaining what happens during the Mass and why it is so important.



Engage the children in an activity to teach and/or practice the Morning Offering and the Rosary.

Other activities I found useful...